2021 ECONOMIC REPORT
NORTHWEST
REGION

DEPARTMENT OF
**HIGHER EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

The Northwest Region is comprised of 18 counties in the northwest corner of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including St. Joseph, Chillicothe, Trenton, and Maryville.

The Northwest Region workforce has almost 120,000 employees, making up 4 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2020, 52 percent of the workforce was female and 48 percent was male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2020 was 4.7 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Northwest Region, a trend happening throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2020, 25 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 21 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 9 percent of the workforce was non-white, compared to 17 percent for the state; 4 percent of the region's workforce was Hispanic or Latino, matching the overall state average of 4 percent for Missouri.

For the Northwest Region, 5 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7 percent and the U.S. population at 23 percent.

The Northwest Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the region, 13 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12 percent in Missouri and 10 percent in the U.S.
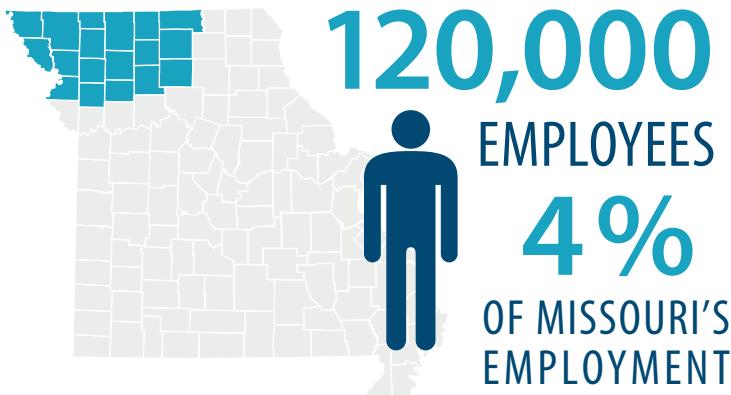
Workforce Demographics

|	NW Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2020	119,639	2,867,162	147,795,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2020	4.7%	6.1%	8.1%
Female	52%	51%	50%
Male	48%	49%	50%
Non-White	9%	17%	24%
Hispanic or Latino	4%	4%	16%
Ages 55 and Older	25%	24%	24%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	13%	12%	10%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	15%	13%	13%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	5%	7%	23%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	28%	37%	41%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2019-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2020

Educational attainment rates for the Northwest Region are lower than those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-eight percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 37 percent for the state.

Educational Attainment

Region
Missouri

	Region	Missouri
Graduate or Professional Degree	6.9%	11.2%
Bachelor's Degree	13.5%	18.0%
Associate Degree	7.2%	7.9%
Some College, No Degree	21.0%	22.2%
High School & Equivalent	40.4%	30.6%
Less than High School	11.0%	10.1%

SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2019 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

120,000
EMPLOYEES
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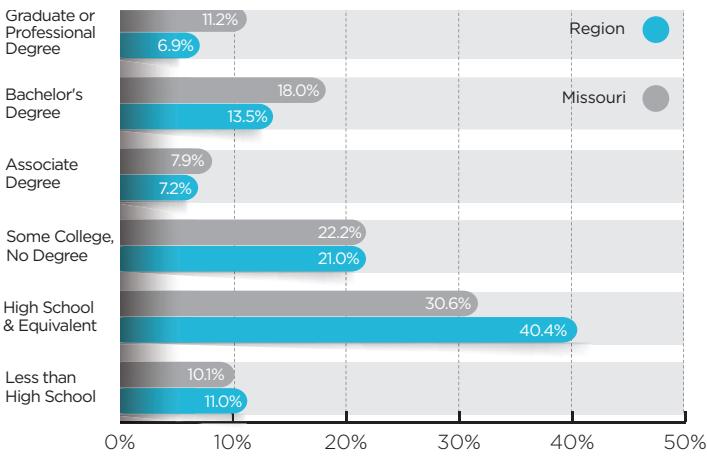
NORTHWEST REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Northwest Region averaged over 90,800 jobs in 2020. The region lost 3,065 jobs from 2019 to 2020, resulting in a -3.3 percent growth rate. Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent in that time. From 2016 to 2020, the Northwest Region averaged -1.1 percent annual loss for an overall decrease of 4.4 percent; during that same period Missouri's employment declined by 2.9 percent.

Northwest Employment Annual Growth Rate

SOURCE: MERIC, QCEW
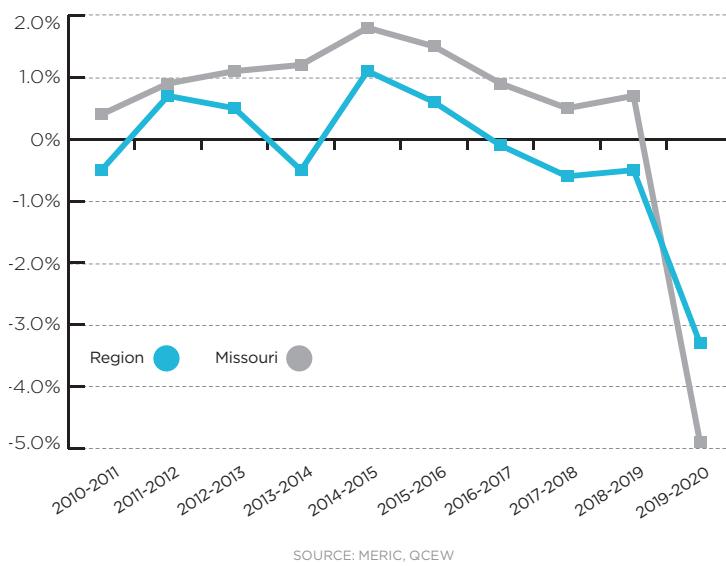
Health Care and Social Assistance and *Retail Trade* are the largest industry sectors in the region, with an employment of 15,573 and 10,209, respectively, in 2020.

Wholesale Trade had positive growth from 2016 to 2020, with an annual growth rate of 0.2 percent.

Northwest Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2016	2020	Net Change	2016-2020 Empl. CAGR	2019 Annual Wages
Health Care & Social Assistance	15,576	15,573	-3	0.0%	$46,008
Retail Trade	10,563	10,209	-354	-0.8%	$28,596
Public Administration	5,679	5,160	-519	-2.4%	$32,580
Wholesale Trade	3,580	3,606	26	0.2%	$58,908
Finance & Insurance	3,336	2,964	-372	-2.9%	$57,312
Other Services (except Public Admin.)	2,181	2,069	-112	-1.3%	$32,652

SOURCE: LEHD-QWI, 2016-2020 2ND QUARTER

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries higher than 1.0 indicate a concentration.

The Northeast Region has higher concentrations in several industry sectors, including *Food Manufacturing, Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing*, and *Gasoline Stations*.

HIGHEST 2020
LQ 7.0
FOOD MANUFACTURING

2020 Northwest Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Food Manufacturing	4,904	7.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	2,930	4.9
Gasoline Stations	1,622	4.0
Chemical Manufacturing	1,459	3.9
Postal Service	625	2.3
Bldg. Material & Garden Equip. Dealers	1,322	2.2
General Merchandise Stores	2,754	2.1
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	1,840	2.0
Justice, Public Order, & Safety Activities	1,431	1.7
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	1,346	1.6
Animal Production & Aquaculture	187	1.6
Crop Production	369	1.6
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	774	1.5
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	2,156	1.5
Repair & Maintenance	817	1.5

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

NORTHWEST REGION

Projected growth by industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest growth industries in the Northwest Region will be the *Ambulatory Health Care Services, Social Assistance, Machinery Manufacturing, Hospitals,* and *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services.*
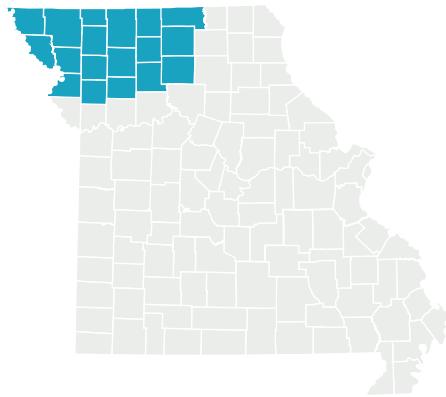
Northwest Region Largest Growth Industries 2018-2028

| Industry | Employment | | Change 2018-2028 | |
	2018 Estimated	2028 Projected	Numeric	Percent
Ambulatory Health Care Services	3,300	3,765	465	14.1%
Social Assistance	3,159	3,621	462	14.6%
Machinery Manufacturing	1,639	1,981	342	20.8%
Hospitals	4,849	5,187	338	7.0%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	2,198	2,431	233	10.6%
Specialty Trade Contractors	1,819	1,935	116	6.4%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	1,173	1,280	107	9.1%
Warehousing & Storage	480	580	100	20.9%
Nonstore Retailers	186	278	92	49.5%
Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing	322	401	79	24.5%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimate labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

Now jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations include *Retail Salespersons, Cashiers,* and *Personal Care Aides* which lead the way in total openings. *Refuse and Recyclable Material Collectors, Personal Care Aides,* and *Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

Next jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Nursing Assistants,* and *Cooks* will have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Respiratory Therapists, Phlebotomists,* and *Diagnostic Medical Sonographers* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

Later jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations *Registered Nurses, General and Operations Managers,* and *Secondary School Teachers* will have the most openings. *Speech-Language Pathologists, Nurse Practitioners,* and *Software Developers, Applications* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

Northwest Region Fastest Growing Occupations

NOW
Refuse & Recyclable Material Collectors
Personal Care Aides
Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers
Helpers-Production Workers
Sales & Related Workers, All Other

NEXT
Respiratory Therapists
Phlebotomists
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Oper...
Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Oper....

LATER
Speech-Language Pathologists ★
Nurse Practitioners
Software Developers, Applications
Veterinarians
Financial Managers

NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH NET INCREASE OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED
SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2018-2028
★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2020-2021 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

NORTHWEST REGION

Northwest Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
◎ NOW							
Retail Salespersons	4,049	3,872	-177	228	351	561	$22,236 ★
Cashiers	2,887	2,822	-65	255	284	533	$19,992 ★
Personal Care Aides	3,077	3,653	576	249	220	527	$22,938
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	1,952	2,039	87	159	196	364	$19,406 ★
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	1,661	1,740	79	77	159	244	$26,956 ★
◎ NEXT							
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	2,824	2,491	-333	136	161	264	$29,175 ★
Nursing Assistants	1,559	1,476	-83	82	88	162	$22,981 ★
Cooks, Restaurant	1,003	1,097	94	56	93	158	$21,491
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,307	1,341	34	54	96	153	$39,535 ★
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	1,566	1,554	-12	55	96	150	$35,574 ★
◎ LATER							
Registered Nurses	2,191	2,379	188	63	59	141	$59,358 ★
General and Operations Managers	1,368	1,406	38	29	91	124	$68,391 ★
Secondary School Teachers	1,706	1,633	-73	46	71	110	$43,927
Elementary School Teachers	1,084	1,035	-49	33	45	73	$38,956
Substance Abuse, Behavioral, & Mental Health	409	465	56	14	31	51	$31,081

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2018-2028 ★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2020-2021 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

For more information, visit
meric.mo.gov or dhewd.mo.gov

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TIMELY TARGETED INTELLIGENT